Pending cases in Punjab High Court

2570. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with the High Court of Punjab as on date;

(b) the number of cases pending for more than three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for early disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information, there are 2,44,100 cases pending in the High Court of Punjab.

(b) There are 1,51,328 cases pending for more than three years in the High Court of Punjab.

(c) A series of steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases. High Courts have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Malimath Committee to streamline procedure which will, *inter-alia*, expedite disposal of pending cases. Government have also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides reviewing the pendency of cases and increasing judge strength of High Courts every three years, Government have also encouraged setting up of alternative modes of dispute resolution including conciliation, mediation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Labour Courts and Consumer Courts, have been set up to expedite the disposal of cases. Information Technology is being used in generation of causelists, providing information to the litigants and advocates, for speedy disposal of cases. A Pilot project has been started for Networking and Computerisation of City Courts in the four metrocities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai to serve as model. The project is aimed at augmenting capacities of courts and speeding up their disposal through better court management with the help of information technology.